
By: **Delegates Mandel, Dypski, DeCarlo, and Minnick**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 1998

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Driver Education - Standardized Classroom Phase Curriculum and**
3 **Increased Hours of Laboratory Instruction**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the number of hours of laboratory instruction in a driver
5 education course that an individual under a certain age must complete before
6 the individual qualifies for a driver's license; requiring the curriculum in the
7 classroom phase of all driver education courses to be standardized and based on
8 a certain curriculum; making stylistic changes; and generally relating to
9 requirements regarding the number of hours of laboratory instruction and a
10 standardized curriculum in driver education programs.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article - Transportation
13 Section 16-103(b)(1) and (2) and 16-506
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article - Transportation**

19 16-103.

20 (b) (1) Except as provided under paragraph (3) of this subsection, the
21 Administration may issue a noncommercial Class B, C, or M license to an individual
22 under the age of 18, if [he] THE INDIVIDUAL is at least 16 years old and has
23 completed satisfactorily a driver's education course approved under Subtitle 5 of this
24 title, and has completed satisfactorily [6] 8 hours of laboratory instruction.

25 (2) The individual shall be exempt from the laboratory instruction
26 required by this subsection, though not the required classroom instruction, if:

27 (i) [He] THE INDIVIDUAL has been licensed regularly to drive in
28 another state for at least 6 months; and

1 (ii) [He] THE INDIVIDUAL establishes to the satisfaction of a
2 classroom instructor certified under Subtitle 5 of this title that [his] THE
3 INDIVIDUAL'S driving experience is sufficient to justify the exemption.

4 16-506.

5 (a) Subject to the prior endorsement of the regulations by the State
6 Superintendent of Schools, the Administration shall adopt and enforce regulations
7 not inconsistent with this subtitle to implement driver education programs conducted
8 by licensed drivers' schools under its jurisdiction.

9 (b) Regulations adopted under this section shall be administered by the
10 Administration and shall include:

11 (1) (I) A STANDARDIZED CURRICULUM REQUIRED FOR THE
12 CLASSROOM PHASE OF ALL DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAMS BASED ON THE "NOVICE
13 DRIVER EDUCATION MODEL CURRICULUM OUTLINE" PREPARED FOR THE AAA
14 FOUNDATION FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY; AND

15 (II) CURRICULUM STANDARDS FOR THE LABORATORY PHASE;

16 (2) [Curriculum, equipment,] EQUIPMENT and facility standards for
17 both classroom and laboratory phases;

18 [(2)] (3) Minimum student performance standards for successful
19 completion of an approved driver education program, consisting of at least 30 hours of
20 classroom instruction;

21 [(3)] (4) Standards for the certification of schools, classroom instructors,
22 and laboratory instructors;

23 [(4)] (5) A system to evaluate the effectiveness of the driver education
24 program;

25 [(5)] (6) Standards governing the required offering of the driver
26 education program, based on the capacity, enrollment, staff, and facilities of the
27 schools; and

28 [(6)] (7) Standards for the eligibility of individuals to enroll in the
29 program.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
31 effect October 1, 1998.